

ABSTRACT

A leather made beneficially interactive with the human body through the insertion of rare earth elements and/or ceramics into its fiber matrix for use in garments, footwear, gloves or upholstery. A tanned leather having an internal fiber matrix has fine particles of rare earth elements and/or ceramics trapped and imbedded into the internal fiber matrix of the leather in sufficient amount to reflect and amplify infrared radiation. The trapped particles receive short wave infrared radiation from a human body and from the surrounding environment and reflect and amplify them and convert the short wavelength infrared radiation into long wavelength infrared radiation that penetrates more deeply into human flesh with the beneficial results of increased blood flow, cellular activity and healing. In addition, a layer of phase change materials can be added to the surface of the leather to provide a temperature stabilizing material.